

# building COMMUNITY

For Indiana's Third Century

July/August 2002

**building  
COMMUNITY**, a bimonthly publication of Indiana 2016, solicits articles from around Indiana that illustrate community-based efforts. Please electronically submit articles to [jswenson@gov.state.in.us](mailto:jswenson@gov.state.in.us). Digital photographs are accepted and encouraged.

## *In this issue*

*Gatherings – 2*  
*Can you guess? – 2*  
*Pay it forward – 3*  
*Be kind to  
your health – 3*  
*In search of freedom – 4*  
*Health fair – 5*  
*Become a 2016  
community – 5*  
*Projects that serve – 6*  
*What's happening  
at the fair? - 6*

INDIANA  
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COMMUNITIES BUILDING COMMUNITY

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## Step into the future

*Business leaders say innovation will be the defining element in the future economy.* by Jennifer Swenson

Innovation. It's the spark of imagination that underlies creativity. When Indiana 2016 gathered industry leaders at the Governor's Residence last February to ask what inspired them to creative careers in technology, all described a childhood full of experiences that sparked their imaginations. They remembered building with boxes, taking things apart (and attempting to put them back together again), coloring outside the lines, using grocery bags full of cast-off items to build "inventions," field trips to see how things are made, and supportive adults. All agreed that it's important to raise public awareness about innovative programs involving our youth.

That's the goal of this year's Indiana 2016 State Fair booth, entitled *Step into the future*, August 7-18. "In an age where ideas make the difference between success and failure, the Indiana 2016 initiative is driving the message home that our most important asset is our creativity and nothing is more critical to the future than promoting innovation and wonder in our children," explained

Professor Joseph Pekny, Director of the e-Enterprise Center at **Purdue University's Discovery Park**. "[Our children] will develop new industries in a fast paced economy, they will invent

cures for diseases, and they will drive development of technology that will make us safer, live in a better environment, and improve our standard of living."

Come and experience a taste of exciting, high-tech programs available around the state. Enjoy robots, a Rube Goldberg machine (pictured) and moon buggies; play games that teach you how to keep your computer safe from hackers or how to become an entrepreneur. See how technology can help you

live better today—and make your community a better place tomorrow.

"Each day will be different," explained Robin Tew, Special Assistant to Governor Frank O'Bannon, and State Fair committee chair. "We're featuring ground-breaking programs that are available to Hoosiers today. We wanted presentations to be fun while helping visitors discover exciting new ways Indiana is preparing to 'step into the future.'"

You may want to come back each day to see what's new!



# Gatherings

by Judy O'Bannon



First Lady Judy O'Bannon recognizes a unique find at one of 15 AmeriCorps service projects during the Summer Celebration community cleanup in Gary.

Step into the past

*Indiana 2016 looks ahead to our state's Bicentennial. As a state, we have celebrated historical milestones with a wide range of events. See if you can identify this piece of Indiana's past.*

What famous Hoosier is featured in this photo? Where was it taken? What was occurring? What was the occasion? Send your guesses to [indiana2016@gov.state.in.us](mailto:indiana2016@gov.state.in.us). Watch future issues for more peeks into Indiana's past celebrations.

What an exciting time to be alive!

Change is everywhere; it is fast and affects all of us. It is indeed a new day—but it is a new day in an old world. In our communities, people are still waking up to the same needs that they've always had: making sure there is food to eat, healthcare when necessary, a roof over their heads and a place to keep their stuff, a job that is fulfilling, financially and intellectually, a way to develop something between the ears to help us understand the world and make good decisions, and something to devote themselves to that is bigger than any one of us as we stand alone.

Look around, though. We sure don't meet these needs and opportunities as they did when our state was founded in 1816. Nor is our way of handling things today adequate for an advancing tomorrow.

In the past, it was land that determined one's ability to be productive. Then people began to equate geographic location, trained workforce and natural resources with the ingredients for success. More recently, information was the have-to-have commodity. But in this new day, with information readily available and with global communication one mouse click away, innovation is seen as the driving force of our economy and leadership capacity. New ways of attacking old problems and opportunities. "Who would have thought 10 years ago..." is a common expression, but more importantly, what will be the mode of travel, the medical cures or the management of resources in the coming years? As we look to 2016, it behooves us to get our minds in gear and sharpen our skills, and imagine the unthinkable.

We urged people to build a strong foundation on the past, to analyze today and to create their vision of the future they prefer. Now the fun part—dream of and prepare the route to make this vision a reality. The train of innovation has left the station. Get on board. It will be a great ride!



Can you guess ?

photo courtesy the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association



*I pledge to myself on this day,  
To try to be kind in every way.*

*To every person, big and small,  
I will help them if they fall.*

*When I love myself and others too,  
That is the best that I can do*

--Kindness Pledge recited by  
Jonathan Jennings students  
daily.

The wagons rolled into town, loaded with kindness collection boxes and manned by students with a desire to involve their community in a kindness campaign. Students and staff at Jonathan Jennings Elementary took their *Pay It Forward* Kindness Project to the streets of **Charlestown** last fall to enlist the support of community members.

The project, based on the popular movie of the same name, asks students, staff, parents, and community members to perform kind acts, big or small, planned or unplanned. The receiver of the act is then asked to "pay the kindness forward" by doing two kind acts for other people.

Each kindness was written on a strip of paper that then became a link in the school's kindness chain. After just two months, the chain had grown to over 12,438 links. The chain has continued to grow to more than 18,000.

As quoted in *The Leader*, Dr. Teresa Edington, a local chiropractor who placed a kindness box in her office, said, "I want to teach people in the community that by doing random acts of kindness that we can build a better community in which to live in."



# Pay it Forward

by Katy Brett



But the kindness chain was not the last move for these kindness warriors. Each grade level at Jonathan Jennings took on a project, ranging from Litter Patrol to help keep the grounds clean, to adopting residents of the Alzheimer's Unit at a local nursing home, to planning weekly thank-you parties for the school's support personnel. And the kindness continues. . .

The *Pay It Forward* Kindness Project unites students and the community, demonstrating that when a community comes together with a common goal in mind—they build community!

*The mayor scattered seeds of kindness  
from a hot-air balloon.*

## Be kind to your health

by Lori Peterson

*"You cannot honestly say that you are concerned about the health of minorities and not do tobacco control."*

- Brenda Bell-Caffee

In a vibrant community, people watch out for their neighbors. It is no secret that African-Americans and other minorities die at alarming rates from diseases related to tobacco. According to the 2001 statistics, the top two leading causes of death among minorities are heart disease and cancer, both of which are tobacco related diseases.

The **Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency** funds tobacco control programs initiated by local minority-based non-profits around the state. The focus is on building strong, minority-based partnerships; protecting the community from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke; reducing youth initiation and access to tobacco and promoting cessation resources.

The most successful programs are designed community-by-community, neighborhood-by-neighborhood, and family-by-family.

If you'd like to learn more about the community-based or minority-based partnerships of the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency, please contact their office at 317-234-1787.

# In search of Freedom

*In search of freedom—for everyone. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the last group of slaves in Texas received news of this historic signing. In recognition, “Juneteenth” was designated a state holiday in Texas in 1980. This year Indiana held its first statewide celebration of Juneteenth, jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, the Indiana DNR, Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indiana Freedom Trails, the Indiana Historic Bureau and Indiana 2016.*

*A photo essay by Katy Brett*

1

First Lady Judy O'Bannon (right) and Board Member Sue Livers (left) tour **Eleutherian College** on June 18. Restoration continues on the building, built in 1854. The building stands today as a testament to those who have gone before and as a reminder to all today, continuing the struggle for freedom and equality.



2

A school dedicated to freedom and equality, Eleutherian College, located in Lancaster—just north of **Madison**, provided education to all people—black, white, male and female, from 1849-1865. The College also served as station on the **Underground Railroad**, assisting those fleeing areas of slavery and traveling to the North. Its rich history reminds us to look for those barriers in our communities that stand in the way of freedom and education for all today.



June 19, First Lady Judy O'Bannon (left) and Anitra Larae Donahue (right), designer of the Indiana Freedom Trails logo, stand beside the **Levi Coffin House** historical marker—the first Indiana historical marker issued with the Freedom Trails logo, indicating participation in the Underground Railroad.

3



4

Inside the Levi Coffin House, **Fountain City**, a small door reveals the hidden space where Levi and Catherine Coffin hid escaped slaves during their flight to the North from 1827-1847.



6

Dr. Carl Lyles (far left) and members of his immediate family stand with Judy O'Bannon around the **Lyles Station** historical marker, unveiled on June 24. Dr. Lyles has written a history of Lyles Station—one of the most intact African-American settlements in Indiana—and he is a descendant of one of the community founders.



5

On June 24, Judy O'Bannon, area elected officials, and community members broke ground on the restoration of **Lyles Consolidated School**, Lyles Station as part of the Lyles Station Juneteenth celebration.





# Black and Minority Health Fair was among the first 2016 Communities

by Jennifer Swenson

*Communities have been asking themselves what to do about the future, and preventive health measures are one way they have of making the future brighter. Identifying needs, involving the combined resources of business, government and volunteers, working together to achieve a shared vision: that's what building community is all about. And that's why the Black and Minority Health Fair was such a natural fit as one of the first Indiana 2016 communities.*

While a Health Fair may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of a community, the Black and Minority Health Fair, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, embodies the spirit of community building. With goals of preventing disease through early detection and screening, and making healthcare accessible to all segments of the community, organizers of the Black and Minority Health Fair (July 18-21) recognize the fact that citizens contribute their best when they're well.

Health Fair Director Martha Bonds emphasized that while the Health Fair grew out of the Indiana Black Expo, it's reaching out to other minorities. "We are the Black and Minority Health Fair, and when you think about it, almost everyone—males over 40, Hispanics and Latinos, senior citizens—could be considered a minority in one sense or another," she explained.

With this broader definition of the target community in mind, the Health Fair's theme this year is *Health Free-for-all*. "We want good health to be free for *all* our citizens," Bonds explained, "including those of all races, those who are uninsured and those who do not speak English."



Frankie Casel discovered her diabetes at the Health Fair.

had regular appointments with my doctor. I had already been checked for a series of illnesses. I honestly don't know why [the diabetes] wasn't discovered earlier," explained Casel.

Twelve years later, with a combination of dietary changes, increased exercise and medication, her diabetes is under control. "My father had diabetes and died of a massive heart attack. My grandmother went blind and lost a limb as a result of the disease. Thanks to the Health Fair, I have taken steps to remain healthy," she explained. "I stay under a doctor's care, and I get my feet and eyes checked regularly."

The Health Fair can help you take the steps now to prevent disease in your future. It's also a perfect example of building community!

Recognizing the numbers of Hispanic and Latino residents in the state, Indiana 2016 Task Force member, Maria Pimentel-Gannon, is arranging special translations for Spanish-speaking attendees on Thursday evening.

With over 2,800 volunteers, 36 participating businesses and associations, and 17 corporate sponsors, the Fair enjoys widespread community support. The 2001 fair conducted 102,000 individual screenings with a per person value of \$500. Included are screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, thyroid, HIV, sickle cell anemia, lead, syphilis, vision, glaucoma, dental, hearing and prostate.

All this is available for the price of admission to Indiana Black Expo—\$7.00, in advance and \$8.00 at the door. In fact, Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. is Senior Citizen's Day, and admission is free.

Beyond the facts and statistics are individuals whose lives have been changed as a result of the Fair. Take Frankie Casel, for example. "When my blood was screened for sugar at the Health Fair, it was so high that the staff wanted to take me directly to the hospital.... I

## Health Fair reaches out to community

*The Black and Minority Health Fair will be held in Indianapolis at the Indiana Convention Center, Hall D*  
**Thursday, July 18, 5 – 8 p.m.**  
*(Senior Citizen's Day no admission fee)*  
**Friday, July 19, 1 – 8 p.m.**  
**Saturday, July 20, 10 – 8 p.m.**  
**Sunday, July 21, 12 – 8 p.m.**



## Your project can also be an Indiana 2016 Community

*"Communities Building Community," is the theme of Indiana 2016. Our mission is to educate about, inspire and recognize active involvement of Hoosiers in their communities. Why not follow the lead of the Black and Minority Health Fair and consider signing up your community-based project as an Indiana 2016 "community?"*

# EPICS

by Aja May

*In this mutually beneficial partnership, students gain “real world” knowledge and community perspective while not-for-profits are given the technological and engineering tools they need to enhance their programs.*

## Projects meet community needs

In a Tippecanoe County clinic, children with special needs are playing with a dollhouse designed just for them. At Purdue University, medically obese students are settling into a classroom desk that adjusts perfectly and allows them a comfortable hour of class. A Habitat for Humanity home is being built in Lafayette in the most efficient way imaginable, saving on costs and increasing quality.

These projects and more are part of a community learning program at Purdue University. In 1995, faculty at Purdue University, faced with their students' need for hands-on experience and local non-profits' desire for technological assistance, created a program that not only provided solutions, but also created community relationships. Today, Purdue students enrolled in the EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) are using their classroom knowledge in the community by partnering with local not-for-profit organizations. In this mutually beneficial partnership, students gain “real world” knowledge and community perspective while not-for-profits are given the technological and engineering tools they need to enhance their programs.



Through their community-based projects, Purdue students and local organizations are forming relationships that extend well beyond the classroom and into the community. EPICS at Purdue is now serving as a national model for community learning and has led to similar programs at other universities.

## Indiana 2016 State Fair Activities

### Location:

**Expo Hall, “Made in Indiana” section  
Indiana State Fairgrounds**

### Dates:

**August 7 – 18**

### Times:

**9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Sunday – Thursday**

**9 a.m. – 10 p.m. Friday – Saturday**

### Schedule:

Aug. 7 **FIRST Robotics** from **Perry Meridian, Carmel, West Lafayette**

Aug. 8 **FIRST Robotics** from **Perry Meridian, Kokomo, Russiaville**

Aug. 9 **FIRST Robotics** from **Perry Meridian, Morristown, Hammond**

Aug. 10 **Indiana Space Consortium** moon buggies, satellites and Lego robotics

**(Imagination Station, Purdue, IUPUI, Notre Dame, Taylor U, Evansville U, Discovery Park)**

Aug. 11 Rube Goldberg machine raises the flag in many comical steps from **Purdue Theta Tau Fraternity** and **Discovery Park**

Aug. 12 Students from around the state demonstrate their **SEFI** Science, Engineering projects

Aug. 13 Visitors play a game sponsored by the **Northern Indiana Innovation Center** in which they “create” an entrepreneur. **Indiana Child Care Fund** presents Kids' Science

Aug. 14 Visitors play computer games to learn to **“How Safe is Your Computer?”** from **Purdue's CERIAS** program and discover engineering projects from **EPICS** that make life better for people with physical limitations

Aug. 15 – 16 **IU School of Informatics** puts visitors on the space shuttle through digital photography, demonstrates 3-D animation

Aug. 17 – 18 **ISU** demonstrates **Working, Learning, Living and Creating** through remote robotics, computerized exercise equipment, electronic music

Daily: Bring your cameras and take family photos posing as an astronaut, a scientist or a driver of a solar car. Explore Indiana's past, and find out details about today's Indiana through the **Polis Center & Indiana Humanities Council's Indiana Online.**

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